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Sri Krishnaraj Wodeyar Bahadur G.C.S.I. etc.,

H. H the maharaja of Mysore,

Mysore.

May it please your Highness,

The sages that settled our Hindu cycle of years must have been men gifted with far-sightedness. They call the present year Durmati. Your Highness knows that the succeeding four years are known as Dundhubhi, Rudhirodgari, Rakshakshi and Krodhana. These five years are years in which things get unhinged throughout the world and Mysore is no exception to the rule. It is the good fortune of Mysore that we have in your Highness a philosopher Statesman who is determined to do what is consonant with truth, justice and fair-play all-round. Shanti seems to be embodied in your Highness-and it is this Shanti that will hand down your Highness' name to posterity as the reign of one who in thought, word and deed tried to rival, if not surpass, that great Sri Krishna who revolutionalised the world and gave it an unshakeable moral foundation. May Sri Krishna enable you to follow rigidly in his immortal footsteps and enable you to establish a moral epoch in the history of Mysore. To do so is no joke. It is beset with great difficulties. Your Highness has already given evidence to the world that you have an unconquerable strength of will

and that by the help of it your Highness can overcome these difficulties. I hope you will conquer them. Our Sacred writings declare "ರಾಜಾ ಕಾಲಸ್ಯ ಕಾರಣಂ". The meaning of this is that the king can make and unmake kala (ಕಾಲ). In other words it means that he can create a "golden age" as well as an "iron age". In other words it means that he can establish an age characterised by truth, justice and fair-play. To do this, Your Highness must be your own friend, philosopher and guide. Your Highness must hear all and do what your Highness thinks proper. I have a duty to your Highness. I shall discharge it fearlessly. Those who fill high and responsible offices must be philosophers and statesmen. They must have high attainments and lofty character. One who combines these lofty characteristics must be selected for the post of the Dewan. The present Council ought to be abolished. All heads of departments should be men of high attainments and lofty character. They must be free from prejudices of caste, colour and creed. Those who do not answer this standard should be removed. In selecting men for the heads of Department merit and merit alone should be the passport. Merit should be taken to be not merely adherence to truth, justice and fairplay, but also ability and capacity to turn out good work. Such heads of Departments must be the Councillors. The Dewan and the Councillors should form the cabinet. The approval of all

appointments should lie with your Highness. If this is done, the administration is bound to reflect creditably on your Highness. I think that Mr. J. S. Chakravarti combines in himself the requisites of a Dewan. Among those in the service, there are scores of officers of all castes and creeds who are competent to do justice to the positions of councillors. Your Highness knows them well. They may be appointed heads of departments and members of Council. The best among the Councillors may be appointed Dewans. The period of Dewanship must not exceed five years. For a long time to come, all appointments and their approval should rest with your Highness. The whole of the Public Service in Mysore stands in need of over-hauling. One third of the expenditure of the state can be saved without impairing efficiency, if your Highness takes the administration into your Highness' own hands. Till this is done, it is not advisable to lose the services of Mr. Banerji. He has his defects. He is impatient. With all that he does not mince matters. He maintains justice and fairplay at a very high level. He has the capacity of maintaining the prestige of your Highness' rule. In the matter of discipline, he is superior to any of the previous Dewans. To lose his services now till proper arrangements are made is nothing short of introducing chaos into the administration. He may be

made an additional Dewan, if the present Dewan remains in Service. I most respectfully pray to your Highness to give calm and careful consideration to these humbler suggestions of mine and be so kind as to excuse the liberty I have taken in what I consider to be my duty to your Highness.

I beg to remain

with utmost esteem and respect.

your Highness'

most loyal and humble

servant —

M. Venkatakrishnaya

Mysore
7 Feb. 1922